

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
SAJ-01 CPR-01 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 /070 W
----- 040843 /20

R 170535Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1966
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

S E C R E T PORT MORESBY 1372

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR RP PP
SUBJ: GPNG REQUESTS WITHDRAWAL OF PHILIPPINE DIPLOMAT

REF: MANILA 18943

1. THE WAGE LEVELS FOR FILIPINOS EMPLOYED BY THE GPNG HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A SIMMERING DISPUTE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS BECAUSE THE WAGE LEVELS ARE DECIDEDLY LOWER THAN THOSE PAID AUSTRALIANS AND MOST OTHER WHITES EMPLOYED BY THE GPNG. THE SUBJECT WAS REPORTEDLY RAISED WITH PRIME MINISTER SOMARE ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO MANILA, AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUGGESTED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED.

2. PHILIPPINE CHARGE' SABALONES, HOWEVER, POURED GASOLINE ON THE SMOLDERING DISPUTE WITH A LETTER TO THE EDITOR WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE POST-COURIER ON NOV 30. IN THE LETTER (WHICH HE SIGNED AS AMBASSADOR) HE ACCUSED THE PNG PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF "DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID AND HITLERIAN ARYANISM." HE WROTE THAT AN "IDIOT FROM A COUNTRY OF EUROPEAN
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ORIGIN COULD BE BETTER PAID THAN AN INTELLECTUAL FROM WHAT THE PSC CALLED THE 'LOW COST COUNTRIES--THE PHILIPPINES, ASIA AND AFRICA.'"

3. DURING NOVEMBER, FOREIGN MINISTER KIKI, RETURNING FROM A TRIP TO SOUTH KOREA, PICKED UP TWO PIGS IN MANILA WHICH HE

HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HIS PIG FARM AND BROUGHT THEM BACK TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA. UPON ARRIVAL ON NOVEMBER 19, THE PIGS WERE QUARANTINED BY PNG AUTHORITIES, AND SUBSEQUENTLY DESTROYED. THIS ACTION APPARENTLY WOUNDED THE PHILIPPINE SENSITIVITIES EVEN FURTHER.

4. THE AUSTRALIAN ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER TOLD ME DEC 16 THAT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY SENT DFAT A HIGHLY OFFENSIVE AND DEFAMATORY NOTE ATTACKING THE PNG AUTHORITIES FOR QUARANTINING AND DESTROYING THE PIGS. (THE NOTE REPORTEDLY OPENED, "THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PRESENTS IT COMPLIMENTS TO DFAT AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE STORY OF THE TWO LITTLE PIGS.")

5. IN RETALIATION, DFAT CABLED PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR FAROLAN, WHO IS RESIDENT IN JAKARTA, REQUESTING SABALONES' IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL. ACCORDING TO THE AUSSIES, HE WAS NOT DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA, BUT THE EFFECT OF THE MESSAGE WAS EQUIV-
LENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SABALONES IS NOT PRESENTLY HERE, AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN.

6. COMMENT: THE ACTION OF DFAT IN REQUESTING SABALONES' WITHDRAWAL IS ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THE GPNG WILL NOT BE PUSHED AROUND BY OTHER COUNTRIES. SABALONES HAS BEEN CONSIDERED SOMETHING OF AN ODDBALL HERE, AND HIS DEPARTURE WILL NOT CAUSE REGRET. HIS LETTER TO THE POST-COURIER CREATED A GOOD DEAL OF UNFAVORABLE COMMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEFAMATION, SPECIES PROTECTION, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTM01372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760464-0652
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabcbk.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANILA 18943
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GPNG REQUESTS WITHDRAWAL OF PHILIPPINE DIPLOMAT
TAGS: PFOR, RP, PP, (SABALONES)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006